

(Washington, DC) - **Congressman Wally Herger today met with Mike and Mary Gonzales of Red Bluff. They are the parents of Suzy Gonzales, whose death was the impetus for Herger's legislation that would make it a federal crime to use the internet to help someone commit suicide. In 2003, Suzy Gonzales became a victim of an online discussion group that promotes suicide as a personal choice and a "civil right." The group encouraged Suzy to commit suicide and gave her step-by-step instructions on how to do it. This website has been linked to two dozen suicides in recent years. The Gonzales' traveled to Washington, DC this week to raise awareness for the bill and help gain the support of members of Congress. After the meeting, Congressman Herger issued the following statement:**

"Mike and Mary Gonzales have shown amazing resilience and character in the face of tragedy. The Gonzales' have risen above their own personal heartbreak so that other families will never have to experience something like this. This is why I introduced the Suzanne Gonzales Suicide Prevention Act. People suffering from depression need help and treatment, not fringe internet groups that glorify and assist with suicide. Those who facilitate this irreversible and tragic decision must be held accountable. I thank Mike and Mary for their continued hard work to raise awareness and I will carry on my efforts to pass this bill into law."